



APHIS

Plant Protection and Quarantine

Pest Detection and Management Programs

Weekly Notice, September 22, 2003

This "Weekly Notice" is prepared by the Pest Detection and Management Programs (PDMP) to communicate recent important events. These notices and other more detailed program information can be found at:

Domestic Programs

Grasshopper Program - On September 9 and 10, 2003, in Aurora, Colorado, the APHIS Grasshopper Program conducted a critique that focused on grasshopper and Mormon cricket treatment programs that took place in 2003. PPQ personnel involved with treatments were all provided an opportunity to present "the good, the bad, and the ugly" experiences from the past season.

Some of the major points that the attendees expressed were:

A total of 28 programs (12 grasshopper and 16 Mormon cricket) in nine States were successfully completed in 2003;

Most of these programs used the newly developed Reduced Agent/Area Treatments (RAATs) strategy which substantially reduced costs;

Although the Grasshopper Program was able to be responsive to the outbreaks faced in 2003, there is concern that PPQ may be "spread too thin" to be effective should the number of acres requiring treatment increase in 2004.

In addition, the attendees' concerns were consolidated into 11 action items that need resolution before the 2004 treatment season. Teams were formed to address these action items, the team's task was identified, and projected completion dates were assigned.

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Sudden oak death - Santa Cruz County, California, an area heavily infested with *P. ramorum*, has created a one acre site specifically for the safe disposal of *P. ramorum* infected plant material. "Green waste" has been a challenge from the onset of the Federal program and this

project, one supported by the California Oak Mortality Task Force and a group calling itself "SODBusters", makes significant inroads in addressing that concern. Plant material which is from a site where the disease has been confirmed can be brought here for collection and safe disposal. Shipments of the green waste will be shipped in enclosed containers to the Soledad Energy Plant in Monterey county (a regulated county) for generation into electricity. Further, the material may be used by scientists to further our understanding of "green waste" and the risks associated with it and better methods for effectively dealing with it. This is the second site in California designed and designated for the collection green waste associated with *P. ramorum*. The first site opened earlier this year in San Rafael in Marin County.

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Environmental Monitoring - The *Environmental Monitoring Report for the Asian Longhorned Beetle Cooperative Eradication Program in New York and Illinois for 2002-2003* was distributed this week to program personnel and stakeholders. The report analyzes and reviews over 1600 samples in the context of potential risk to human health and the environment and concludes that there is little or no risk to the general public or the environment due to program treatments of trees in New York and Illinois.

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Emergency Programs

Incident Command - An Incident Command System (ICS) Orientation Workshop was held September 11, at the Eastern Region's annual State Plant Health Director's meeting in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Included in the overview was an ICS table top exercise dealing with the purposeful spread of Plum Pox disease throughout much of the United States. Touring the current Plum Pox zone in Pennsylvania by participants the previous day added a sense of realism to the exercise.

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